

# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

## Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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December 16, 2005

TO: Internal File

THRU: Jerriann Ernstsens, Ph.D., Environmental Scientist, Lead

FROM: Priscilla Burton, Environmental Scientist III

RE: Removal of Gas Well Buffer Zone, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, C/015/0018, Task ID #2351

### **SUMMARY:**

With regard to the soils section, the substantive change in this amendment is not the gas well buffer zone, but the location of the proposed breakout in Crandall Canyon. A Right-of-Way Easement in Crandall Canyon between PacifiCorp and Andalex Resources/Intermountain Power Agency (IPA) was signed June 8, 2004 and was reviewed and approved by the Division on April 21, 2005 (Legal & Financial Vol.). The agreement eliminates the need for a breakout upstream of the existing disturbance in Crandall Canyon. Instead, PacifiCorp plans to breakout from the Hiawatha Seam within the existing Genwal Mine permit area. Consequently, the requirement for NEPA evaluation (U.S.F.S. stipulation #5) has been removed from the plan. This amendment was received October 11, 2005.

Mill Vork Lease, Vol 12 was previously reviewed under task 1568. Order III soil survey information is provided in Vol. 12.

### **TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR 783., et. al.

## SOILS RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.21; 30 CFR 817.22; 30 CFR 817.200(c); 30 CFR 823; R645-301-220; R645-301-411.

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**EXPLORATION TECHNICAL MEMO**

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**Analysis:**

Mill Fork Lease

Order III soil survey information is provided in Vol. 12. The U.S.F.S stipulation #5 requiring NEPA evaluation prior to disturbance upstream of the Genwal Mine has been removed from the plan, because Pacificorp plans to develop a ventilation breakout from the Hiawatha Seam within the existing Genwal Mine permit area (Vol 12. Sec. R645-301-230). This breakout will be approximately 75 ft. west of the Genwal intake portal on the south side of the stream (personal communication with Chuck Semborski, 12/16/2005). The Right-of-Way Easement for this proposed disturbance was negotiated in June 2004 and was reviewed and incorporated into the MRP on April 21, 2005 (Legal & Financial Vol.)

Prior to surface disturbance in Crandall Canyon, Order I level soils information will be required, in accordance with R645-301-200. [12162005]

**Findings:**

The information provided meets the requirements of the Environmental Resource-Topsoil requirements of the Regulations.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Approval of the soils chapter is recommended.